The Ministry is also implementing National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) since 1993 in 160 towns along polluted stretches of 34 rivers in the country. The allocation for NRCP during the Tenth Plan period is Rs.1417 crore.

(c) to (f) The Government of Rajasthan has carried out a survey of lakes in Rajasthan and a background information of 8 lakes, namely, Annasagar, Pushkar, Fatehsagar, Jaitsagar, Pichola, Swaroopsagar, Jaisamand and Nakki prioritised by State Government was forwarded to this Ministry in December, 2004. Out of these, the Government of Rajasthan forwarded only a proposal for conservation of 3 lakes of Udaipur which was not as per NLCP guidelines. The State Government has been informed accordingly.

(g) Before the prioritisation of lakes by Government of Rajasthan, a project on conservation of Mansagar Lake in Jaipur was approved in Sept, 2002 at an estimated cost of Rs.24.72 crore and is presently under implementation.

Preparation of photo identity cards of Tigers

2461. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wild life Institute of India has decided to prepare photo identity cards of all the Tigers of the country through new scientific techniques to have a more accurate count of the tigers living in the wild;

(b) if so, whether the three techniques-computerized pugmark, camera traps and DNA tests have been tried elsewhere in the world; and

(c) if so, what is the extent of accuracy about these methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The new methodology of estimating tigers, co-predators, prey animals and evaluation of their habitat status has been evolved through collaborative research work between Project Tiger (Ministry of Environment and Forests) and the Wildlife Institute of India.This involves sampling and estimation of tiger density in different strata using a combination of

methods, *i.e.* camera trap, digital photography of pugmarks to fix identities by a computer based recognition technique based on a mark-capture statistical framework, and correlation with other data, e.g. physical signs of tiger presence, prey-base, apart from DNA characterization of scats at places. The methodology has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by National Board for Wildlife.

(b) The three techniques *viz.,* digital image of pugmark, camera traps and DNA scat analysis are scientifically valid methods for monitoring carnivore populations throughout the world. These have been used on mountain lion in the USA, jaguars in South America, tigers in India and South East Asia, and on wolves and bears in North America.

(c) The new methodology would give 95% interval of statistical confidence of tiger population in the country.

Rehabilitation of families displaced due to construction of Pong dam

+2462. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of families which came under submerged area of the Pong reservoir were not rehabilitated completely after the construction of the Pong dam over the Beas river in the district of Kangra;

(b) whether a 1450 feet area on the bank of Pong lake has been declared a wildlife sanctuary to displace the remaining families outside the submerged area; and

(c) if so, when its notification was issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the total number of families affected by the construction of the Pong dam reservoir is 20,722. As per the allotment rules of Government of Rajasthan, out of the total 16,352 number of eligible oustees, 10,580 number of oustees have been allotted land in Rajasthan till date.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the notification of Pong Lake Sanctuary, an area up to 1450 feet altitude has been declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.